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Evening Standard (London, Greater London, England) · Fri, Aug 9, 1996 · Page 153
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The day Ghislaine Maxwell was breathalysed and invited the police in for cup of tea

GHISLAINE MAXWELL invited police officers into her brother's home, gave them tea and biscuits and showed them family photographs after they arrested her for drink driving, a court heard today.

The daughter of the late disgraced press baron Robert Maxwell was stopped by police in Fulham at 4.30am when they spotted her driving her blue VW Golf without headlights. Maxwell, 34, who lives in New York, was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £75 costs, at Horseferry Road magistrates court. She was disqualified from driving for 12 months.

Maxwell's treasured daughter — he named his yacht after her — spoke only to plead guilty to a charge of drink driving. She stood erect in the dock, wearing a black jacket over a short floral print dress. She carried a Chanel bag and her dark glossy hair was scraped back in a ponytail.

by ED HARRIS

The court heard she was one-and-a-half times over the limit when stopped.

Keith Oliver, representing Maxwell, described her as a woman "of moderate means". He said: "On the night in question she attended a dinner party, had little to eat and on an empty stomach consumed too much alcohol, about two to three glasses of wine."

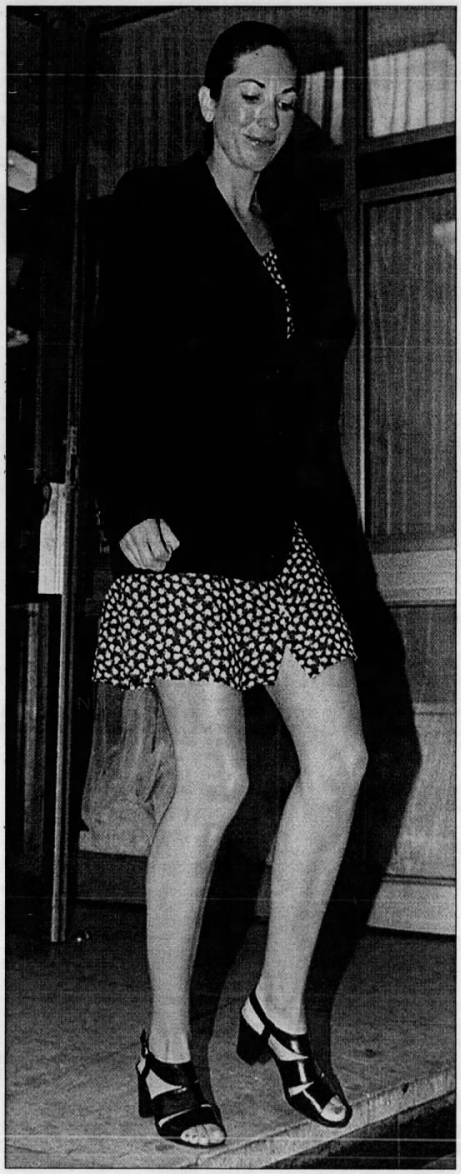
Nazir Afzal, prosecuting, said: "When she was told she was displaying no headlights she said sorry and then the police noticed her breath smelt of alcohol. When she was asked how long ago she had had an alcoholic drink she said about two minutes ago.

"She was taken to Chelsea police station. She said she was allergic to alcohol and had not had a drink for four-and-a-half years. The officers did not put much credence to this. She was cooperative and said she was of no fixed abode in the UK, so she invited officers back to her brother's address and gave them cups of tea and biscuits and then showed them some family pictures."

Miss Maxwell later said she would write to their senior officer to commend them on their behaviour, Mr Afzal said.

Miss Maxwell, whose occupation was given as a business consultant, declined to comment after the case and left the court in a black cab with a female companion.

Known as a socialite in New York where her nicknames are "The Shopper" and "Good Time Ghislaine", she enjoys a reputation for partying and has been romantically linked with property developer Jeffrey Epstein.



Ghislaine Maxwell: Gave police officers tea and biscuits and showed them family pictures after they had arrested her for drink driving

British mother speaks of campsite horror

A BRITISH mother told today how she and her husband narrowly escaped death in the Spanish campsite floods after they were forced to hold their two children above their heads as the raging torrent pinned them against their car.

Andrew and Pamela Hamill from Chester were in their tent reading a bedtime story to their two daughters, Louise, nine, and Alison, six, when the giant tidal wave of water, rocks and mud which killed 76 and left 100 injured burst onto the Las Nieves camp site on Wednesday evening.

Still devastated and shocked by her experience, Mrs Hamill, head teacher at a sixth form college, said: "It had been raining, and we

from JUDITH KEELING in Biescas, Spain

were sitting in our tents reading the girls a bedtime story about Budgie the Helicopter when we heard a rumbling sound which just got louder and louder

"We were very excited because the girls had never seen a thunderstorm before.

"Then water began to seep under the tent and we began to get our possessions together.

"Then all of a sudden this great whoosh of water swept the tent away and us with it. The torrent slammed us against our car which was parked next to the tent.

"We struggled out of the tent but were pinned against the car by the deluge of water and saw five or six caravans and cars hurtling down the mountain towards us.

"The first caravan slammed into a tree and the others piled up behind it and formed a brake for the rest of the boulders and stones.

"The water was up to our necks and we were clasping the children for what felt like an hour above our heads.

"There was total silence apart from the roar of crashing and crunching cars and boulders."

Mrs Hamill, whose husband is a university lecturer, said that when the water began to recede the family scrambled to safety on higher ground.

The family recounted their ordeal after they had returned to the scene of the devastation to check whether their car, a BMW hatchback, was still intact.

Mr Hamill climbed into the car and on starting the engine slumped over the wheel.

"This car saved our lives" was all he could manage to say.

His wife praised their two daughters' courage saying: "You were brave little girls, weren't you?"

The two youngsters, who never moved from their mother's side, simply nodded.

The task of identifying many of the victims has been hampered by the fact that few of the campers were carrying passports when the rains struck.

O for the days when you could dial BYRon

by BARBARA McMAHON

WHITEHALL 1212. Skyport 4321. It was so much nicer to dial Scotland Yard or Heathrow Airport before the all-figure telephone numbers were introduced.

Now subscribers reeling from the announcement this week of yet another telephone number overhaul are campaigning for a return to the glory days when you dialled FLAxman for Chelsea, RENown for Fulham or CORinthian for Wembley.

There were exchanges called BLUebell, CHErrywood, FLOral, and a whole area of London was nicknamed poet's corner, with KEAts, BYRon, WORdsworth and KIPling.

"Modern telephone numbers don't have an iota of poetry about them," said the appropriately named Eddie Blower, chairman of the newly formed Whitehall 1212 Association.

Now London faces another dialling upheaval which will change the 0171 and 0181 codes to 020 or 022, followed by an eight-digit number.

Americans have never ditched their telephone letters and businesses can, for a price, form telephone numbers into words, thus PIZZA 2134 or 0800 CARPET.

A BT spokesman said: "Using names would not provide for all the extra new numbers that are needed

Explosion killed TWA victims 'instantly'

STANDARD FOREIGN NEWS DESK

THE TWA Flight 800 explosion killed most of the 230 people on board instantly, making it unlikely anyone was conscious during the horrific free-fall into the ocean, coroner Dr Charles Wetli said.

"It's like a car smashing into a brick wall at 400 mph," said Dr Wetli, the Suffolk county medical examiner who has been in charge of autopsies conducted on the 196 crash victims found so far. "It's an extremely violent whiplash.

"I believe they were all unconscious or dead by the time they hit the water.

"The plane was going at 400mph, it suddenly changes direction, the fuselage is open so all this air and pressure is going into the cabin, and there's a sudden decompression."

Investigators are still piecing together salvaged remnants of the Paris-bound flight which plunged into the Atlantic about 10 miles off Long Island, New York, last month.

Although they suspect a bomb destroyed the plane, a missile hit or mechanical malfunction have not been ruled out.

"All three theories are still up there," said James Kallstrom, the FBI agent in charge of the investigation.

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